



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

*This needs
to be reprinted
and used with
WPER/ATM
what about
LCRA*

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: April 10, 1989

Region II
Response and Prevention Branch
Edison, New Jersey 08837

TO: W. Muszynski, EPA
S. Luftig, EPA
R. Salkie, EPA
M. Randol, EPA
G. Zachos, EPA
R. Basso, EPA
J. Trela, NJDEP
ERD, Washington
(E-Mail)
Database Manager

(201) 548-8730 - Commercial and FTS
24 Hour Emergency

POLREP NO.: Two (2)
INCIDENT NAME: Ideal Cooperage
SITE NO.: ZZ
POLLUTANT: Unknowns
CLASSIFICATION: Major
SOURCE: Empty drum storage area for former steel
drum reconditioning facility
LOCATION: Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey
AMOUNT: 300-400 drums, 1 gas cylinder
WATER BODY: None

1. SITUATION:

A. In the fall of 1981, a steel drum reconditioning company known as Ideal Cooperage, Inc. ceased operations at the site. On the property were several abandoned buildings and tractor-trailers as well as several hundred drums, both full and empty. The majority of the property was dedicated to drum rinsing and reconditioning, while a smaller area was used for drum storage. The property on which the rinsing and reconditioning took place was eventually sold to a trucking company which cleaned up and redeveloped the land. However, the small parcel of land used for storage remained unsold, undeveloped, and contaminated.

B. The undeveloped property, approximately 1.3 acres in size, is situated on the side of a hill. The site is mostly flat, but slopes down to the property line around almost its entire perimeter. The ground consists of loose soil with low brush and some trees. The site is bordered by New York Avenue on the north and west, the trucking company on the east, and the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad Line on the south. Assessments performed by the New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection (NJDEP) have determined that several hundred drums remain on the site. Most of these drums are reportedly empty, but some still contain liquid. Test borings into the soil have indicated the presence of toluene, tetrachloroethylene, and petroleum hydrocarbons. There is also the possibility that the site may contain buried drums.

C. The NJDEP has observed the site being used as a dumping ground for household garbage, construction debris, and abandoned automobiles. The equivalent of seventeen rolloff containers of solid waste were once cleared from the site, but continuous illegal dumping has made it impossible to keep the property free of trash. Neighborhood children also use the site as a playground, and had even built a "fort" using empty drums.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. In 10 April, TAT and EPA returned to measure the perimeter of the site for sampling purposes. Upon arrival, construction of a guard rail, sidewalk, and fence had nearly been completed. A member of Jersey City Engineering, whom EPA had met with at the first site visit, was present. At the first meeting, he did not inform EPA of the present construction. EPA informed the contractor, DeBranello, that they were working on a possible hazardous waste site. EPA is attempting to contact Jersey City and NJDEP to determine the status of present work and future plans.

B. When surveying the site, EPA noted that the gas cylinder was missing. TAT is checking to see if the owner had picked it up.

C. EPA will not continue work on the site until an agreement has been reached where no party will interfere with EPA's work.] *

3. MEASURES WHICH COULD AVOID RELEASES OF SIMILAR NATURE:

None.

4. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. EPA and TAT will return to the site for drum and soil sampling and analysis. On the basis of these results, EPA will decide whether or not this site warrants a removal action.

FURTHER

POLREPS
FINAL POLREP _____ FORTHCOMING ☒

SUBMITTED BY



Lise Pederson, OSC
Response and
Prevention Branch

DATE RELEASED: 10 April 39